

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 INT-05 NSF-02  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7494  
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AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT FOR OES; DEPT PLEASE PASS DOE, INT, NSF, NBS,  
NASA, NOAA, OSTP, EPA, USGS, DOD

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: TGEN  
SUBJ: FRENCH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES -  
JANUARY 1978

A. DURING JANUARY 1978 VARIOUS NEWS MEDIA SOURCES HAVE  
CARRIED STORIES OF FRENCH SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY RELATED  
ACTIVITIES. SOME OF THESE STORIES HAVE BEEN PICKED  
UP BY US NEWS CHANNELS, SOME HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THIS  
EMBASSY AS SEPARATE MESSAGES DUE TO THEIR RELEVANCE TO  
KNOWN INTERESTS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER  
WASHINGTON AGENCIES. THE FOLLOWING BRIEF NEWS  
SUMMARIES ARE THOSE THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO  
WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND ARE ASSUMED TO NOT HAVE BEEN  
OTHERWISE REPORTED IN US NEWS OR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS.  
IF FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY IS DESIRED, PLEASE RESPOND  
TO THIS EMBASSY, ATTENTION SCIENCE OFFICE, GIVING  
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SPECIFIC REFERENCE AND NATURE OF DESIRED ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION. (IT IS OUR INTENTION TO TRY THIS  
REPORTING EFFORT ON A MONTHLY BASIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS  
TO TEST ITS USEFULNESS TO WASHINGTON RECIPIENTS.)

B. TOPICS INCLUDED: NUCLEAR INFORMATION COUNCIL;  
ANTARTIC BASE; VOLCANIC STUDIES; GEOTHERMAL ENERGY;

MEDITERRANEAN POLLUTION; SOLAR BATTERIES; URANIUM ENRICHMENT; ELECTRIC CARS; ASTRONOMY; SOLAR SITES; UFO RESEARCH; INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS SEMINAR; URANIUM IN GUINEA; AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR WASTES.

1. NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ELECTRO-NUCLEAR INFORMATION COUNCIL - AFP, DECEMBER 20, 1977

ON DECEMBER 20, THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO BE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRO-NUCLEAR INFORMATION COUNCIL:

MR. FRANCOIS LAPOIX, PRESIDENT, YOUTH AND NATURE ASSOCIATION

MR. FRANCOIS RAMADE, PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE, MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

MR. PHILIPPE SAINT-MARC, FOUNDER OF THE COMMITTEE ON A CHARTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MR. ROLAND CHEVRIOT, PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE AND PROGRESS

DR. LAREDO, VICE-PRESIDENT, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL UNION FOR SAFEGUARDING LIFE, NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MR. PIERRE SAMUEL, SECRETARY-GENERAL, "FRIENDS OF THE EARTH"

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(THE ELECTRO-NUCLEAR INFORMATION COUNCIL WAS CREATED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ON NOVEMBER 9, 1977 AND IS CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH SIMONE VEIL. THE COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDYING AND PROPOSING MEANS TO ENSURE THAT FULL AND OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON QUESTIONS REGARDING ELECTRO-NUCLEAR ENERGY IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.) (SEE PARIS 33055, NOV 10, 1977)

2. FAILING SUFFICIENT FINANCING, FRENCH ANTARTIC BASE COULD BE ABANDONED - LE MONDE, JANUARY 4, 1978, P. 10

THIRTY YEARS AFTER ITS CREATION, CAN THE FRENCH POLAR EXPEDITION (EPF) CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FUNCTION OF THE ONLY FRENCH ANTARTIC BASE AT DUMONT-D'URVILLE? THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE BASE. THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE ANTARCTIC DURING 1977 COST 15 MILLION FRANCS AND ARE PROJECTED AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR 1978.

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THE STUDY OF SOLAR ACTIVITY AND MAGNETIC FIELDS, THE  
EXPANSE OF FROZEN ICE WHICH IS A CLIMATIC ARCHIVE, AND  
THE POTENTIAL MINERAL RESOURCES ARE JUST A FEW OF THE  
REASONS GIVEN FOR MAINTAINING FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR A  
BASE IN THIS DESOLATE PART OF THE WORLD.

A PROGRAM IS NOW UNDERWAY TO BORE INTO THE ICE  
LAYERS TO A DEPTH OF ABOUT 4,000 METERS. THE SUBSEQUENT  
SPECIMENS WILL CONTAIN ICE FORMED BETWEEN 0 AND 25,000  
YEARS AGO AND WILL REPRESENT THE LAST PHASE OF THE LAST  
ICE AGE, THE WARMING PERIOD AND THE ACTUAL CLIMATE WITH  
ITS VARIATIONS.

WHILE THE BENEFITS OF THIS RESEARCH WILL APPLY TO  
THE DISTANT AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE, FRANCE SHOULD NOT  
WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM.

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3. FRENCH RESEARCHERS DEVELOP AN INTERDISCIPLINARY  
PROGRAM FOR VOLCANIC STUDIES - LE MONDE, JANUARY 4, 1978  
P. 10

THE FRENCH NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CNRS) HAS ESTABLISHED A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF RESEARCH ON WARNING AND SURVEILLANCE OF VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS (PIRPSEV). THIS COMMITTEE RECENTLY MET FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF JEAN DELAYE, CNRS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR FOR EARTH SCIENCES AND DIRECTOR OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY AND GEOPHYSICS. CONSCIOUS OF THE EXISTING LACK OF INFORMATION IN THIS FIELD AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN STUDYING VOLCANOS AND THEIR PROPERTIES, THE COMMITTEE'S WORK WAS DEVOTED TO ESTABLISHING A PRIORITY PROGRAM OF RESEARCH. ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO

- STRUCTURE AND THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF LIQUID SILICATES
- COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF SUPERFICIAL AND SUBTERRANEAN ROCKS
- COLLECTING DATA FROM LIVE VOLCANOS
- PREPARING A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS BASED ON DETAILED STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF VOLCANOS AND THEIR ERUPTIONS

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL COORDINATE STUDIES IN THIS FIELD AND COMPARE AND PUBLISH RESULTS.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO MR. DELAYE INCLUDE: MESSRS. JACQUES LEBEYRIE, CEA AND CNRS; BERNARD TINTURIER, CEA; CLAUDE GUILLEMIN, BRGM; GUY UNCLASSIFIED

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AUBERT, INAG; JEAN-LOUIS LE MOUEL, IPG; JACQUES VARET, BRGM; GEORGES JOBERT, IPG; PAUL SANGNIER, DGRST; MICHEL LOUIS, IGN; FRANCOIS CORNET, IPG; PIERRE VINCENT, CLERMONT-FERRAND UNIVERSITY; AND MICHEL TREUIL, IPG AND INAG.

4. FRANCE TO TRY GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AGAIN - LES ECHOS,  
JANUARY 13, 1978, P. 6

ALTHOUGH PAST EXPERIENCES HAVE SHOWN THAT GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IS NOT COST COMPETITIVE IN SPITE OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES, FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT REPLACING NORMAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH THIS FORM. AT CREIL (OISE), A MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

OFFICIAL INAUGURATED GEOTHERMAL HEATING IN A GROUP OF HOUSES. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SOURCE OF ENERGY COULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS EXPERIMENT BY ADVANCING FINANCING FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS, THE ADVANCE TO THE REIMBURSED IF THE PROJECT IS SUCCESSFUL. A NEW COMPANY, "GEO-CHALEUR", WILL BE FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING TOGETHER POTENTIAL USERS INTERESTED IN FINANCING OPERATIONS.

5. SAVING THE MEDITERRANEAN: CONSULTATIONS BY RIPERIAN COUNTRIES BEGIN - LES ECHOS, JANUARY 16, 1978, P. 7

IN MONACO 17 OUT OF 18 COUNTRIES BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA MET TO STUDY A SYSTEM OF MEDITERRANEAN POLLUTION SURVEILLANCE. WHILE NO DEFINITIVE WORK RESULTED, THE MEETING DEMONSTRATED THE WILLINGNESS OF

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COUNTRIES OF DIFFERING DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE TO WORK TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL. OTHER CONFERENCES UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

(UNDP) HAVE HAD VARYING SUCCESS. ONE OF THE FIRST TANGIBLE RESULTS WAS THE RATIFICATION OF A CONVENTION WHICH MAKES ILLEGAL THE THROWING OF NOXIOUS WASTES FROM BOATS AND WHICH CALLS FOR A COMMON PLAN OF STRUGGLE AGAINST HYDROCARBONS. THE PHASE OF CONTROLLING POLLUTION CAUSED BY CITIES, INDUSTRIES AND FARMS LOCATED ALONG RIVER BANKS IS MORE DIFFICULT. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO ATTACK DIRECT POLLUTION; MEASURES AFFECTING THE AREA UNDER JURISDICTION AND ITS ACTIVITIES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN.

ACCORDING TO COMMANDER COUSTEAU WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MONACO CONFERENCE, THE POLLUTION OF BEACHES AND OTHER SWIMMING AREAS IS NOT IRREPARABLE. "WHAT IS SERIOUS IS LONG-TERM POLLUTION, INSIDIOUS AND CAPABLE

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OF PASSING THE POINT OF NO RETURN, AT LEAST AT THE HUMAN LEVEL."

6. FRANCO-AMERICAN SOLAR BATTERIES - LES ECHOS, JANUARY 16, 1978, P. 6

SOLAREX CORPORATION (US) AND MOTEURS LEROY-SOMER (FRANCE) WILL FORM A SUBSIDIARY, FRANCE PHOTON SA, TO MANUFACTURE SOLAR BATTERIES (PHOTOPILES). THE MAJOR PART OF THE FACTORY'S OUTPUT WILL GO TO A FRENCH COMPANY, POMPES GUINARD.

7. URANIUM: AGREEMENT REACHED ON BRAZILIAN DELIVERY - LES ECHOS, JANUARY 16, 1978, P.6

GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, THE NETHERLANDS AND BRAZIL HAVE AGREED UPON THE DELIVERY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL FOR PEACEFUL APPLICATION. THIS AGREEMENT IMPLIES THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM'S ULTRA-CENTRIFUGE PLANT AT ALMELO, THE NETHERLANDS.

8. ELECTRIC CARS: FIRST FRENCH MODEL WILL BE IN COMMERCIAL SECTOR - LES ECHOS, JANUARY 18, 1978, P.7

FRENCH MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT MICHEL D'ORNANO RECENTLY CHOSE NON-POLLUTING ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM ABOUT 60 PROJECTS PRESENTED DURING 1976-77 AS ONE MERITING INCREASED ATTENTION. HE STATED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT DOES NOT REJECT TECHNOLOGY BUT NEW TECHNOLOGIES MUST BE DEVELOPED WHICH TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION BOTH HUMAN NEEDS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. PAST FRENCH ATTEMPTS AT DEVELOPING ECONOMICALLY VIABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLES HAVE PROVED

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DISAPPOINTING; HOWEVER, US AND JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY  
ADVANCES IN THIS FIELD WILL CREATE AN ACTIVE AND CLOSE  
COMPETITION FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

FRANCE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT FIRST: AN ELECTRIC  
URBAN BUS AND A PUBLIC UTILITIES VEHICLE.

9. FRENCH ASTRONOMERS USE A CARAVELLE TO OBSERVE THE  
ECLIPSE OF A MOON OF SATURN - AFP, MANUARY 20, 1978

FRENCH SCIENTISTS FROM MEUDON OBSERVATORY'S INFRA-  
RED LABORATORY OBSERVED AN UNUSUAL EVENT JANUARY 9 --  
THE PASSAGE OF JAPET, A LARGE MOON OF SATURN, THROUGH  
THE SHADOW OF THE PLANET'S RINGS. THE SCIENTISTS WERE  
FLYING IN A CARAVELLE FROM THE BRETIGNY OBSERVATORY AT  
AN ALTITUDE OF 10,300 METERS. GOOD VISIBILITY  
PERMITTED OBSERVATION OF THE PHENOMENON FOR AN HOUR  
THANKS TO A CAMERA LINKED TO A TELESCOPE. SCIENTISTS,  
AS WELL AS ASTRONOMERS AND ASTROPHYSICISTS, ARE EAGERLY  
AWAITING A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE OBSERVATIONS AND THE  
RESULTING KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED ON THE PLANET'S RINGS AND  
ESPECIALLY ON THE PRESENCE OF MATTER IN THE DIVISION  
OF CASSINI, THE OPAQUE AREA BETWEEN TWO BRIGHT RINGS.

INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF PLANETARY RINGS LEADING TO  
A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAS RECENTLY  
BEEN INCREASED BY AN AMERICAN MISSION'S DISCOVERY OF  
RINGS AROUND THE PLANET URANUS.

10. FRENCH GOVERNMENT CHOOSES SOLAR SITES - LES ECHOS,

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JANUARY 25, 1978, P. 6

1978 WILL BE THE YEAR OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR FRANCE,  
ACCORDING TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RESEARCH JACQUES  
SOURDILLE. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ITS  
BUDGET FOR THIS SECTOR FROM 83 MILLION FRANCS IN 1977  
TO 110 MILLION IN 1978. THREE EXPERIMENTAL SOLAR  
CENTERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE EASTERN PYRENEES,  
CORSICA AND THE VAIBONNE RESPECTIVELY.

11. FRENCH SCIENTISTS URGE UFO RESEARCH - AFP,  
JANUARY 27, 1978

LAST AUTUMN AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR SPACE STUDIES, AN INDEPENDENT SCIENCE COUNCIL  
WAS FORMED TO EVALUATE THE WORK DONE BY A STUDY GROUP  
ON NON-IDENTIFIED SPACE PHENOMENA, I.E. UFOS (UNVI -  
OBJETS VOLANTS NON-IDENTIFIES). THE COUNCIL COMPOSED  
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OF SEVEN FRENCH SCIENTISTS RECOMMENDED THE STUDY OF  
CERTAIN UNEXPLAINED PHYSICAL PHENOMENA, AN INCREASE IN  
THE COLLECTION OF FACTS WITH LESS DELAY BETWEEN  
SIGHTINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS, EXPLORATION OF THE  
POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERVENTION  
TEAM, AND ALLOCATION OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO FINANCE  
THESE OPERATIONS.

12. FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF PROGRESS  
IN INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS ORGANIZES SEMINAR JUNE 13-15 -  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF JANUARY 15, 1978

THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS IS ORGANIZING A  
SEMINAR JUNE 13-15, 1978 IN LYON ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:



-- STRUCTURE DESIGN AND CALCULATION WITH AND  
WITHOUT DAMPING - MODAL SYNTHESIS - NON LINEAR CASES -  
SIMULATION  
-- EARTHQUAKE DETECTION - PROTECTION AND SAFETY  
DEVICES  
-- SHOCKS - SIMULATION - DYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF  
DAMPING MATERIALS  
-- VIBRATION SURVEILLANCE - DIAGNOSIS - PROGNOSIS -  
EXAMPLES

PAPERS ARE INVITED, IN FRENCH OR ENGLISH, ON THE  
ABOVE THEMES AND SHOULD BE SENT TO: SECRETARIAT DU  
G.A.M.I., 3 RUE FERNAND HAINAUT, 93407 SAINT OUEN CEDEX  
FRANCE.

13. FRANCE AND JAPAN TO SEEK URANIUM IN GUINEA - LES  
ECHOS, JANUARY 26, 1978  
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FRANCE AND JAPAN ARE TO FORM A COMPANY TO SEEK  
URANIUM IN GUINEA. THIS COMPANY WILL BE FINANCED BY  
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT COMPANY COGEMA (50 PERCENT), THE  
GUINEAN GOVERNMENT (10 PERCENT) AND THE JAPANESE FIRM,  
POWER REACTOR AND NUCLEAR FUEL DEVELOPMENT (40 PERCENT).

14. FRANCE WILL REPROCESS AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR WASTES -  
LES ECHOS, JANUARY 31, 1978, P. 6

FRANCE AND AUSTRIA HAVE SIGNED A CONTRACT WHEREBY  
FRANCE WILL REPROCESS AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR WASTES AT THE  
LA HAGUE REPROCESSING PLANT. THE EXTRACTED PLUTONIUM  
WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF AUSTRIA ALTHOUGH STORED AT  
LA HAGUE UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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